

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5670
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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UNCLAS LUXEMBOURG 0232

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, LU
SUBJECT: LUXEMBOURG FIRM ANNOUNCES US\$2.77 MILLION SALE
TO USSR

1. THE LUXEMBOURG FIRM PAUL WURTH S. A. (PART OF THE ARBED STEEL GROUP) HAS ANNOUNCED THE RECENT SIGNING OF A CONTRACT IN MOSCOW FOR THE SALE OF SPECIAL BLAST FURNACE EQUIPMENT TO THE STEEL COMPLEX AT NOVOLIPETZK, USSR. THIS TRANSACTION IS VALUED AT 100 MILLION BELGIAN FRANCS (APPROX. US\$2.77 MILLION) AND REPRESENTS THE LARGEST LUXEMBOURG SALE OF EQUIPMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION. AN OPTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON A SECOND SYSTEM WHICH COULD DOUBLE THE TOTAL SALES FIGURE.

2. THE CHARGING SYSTEM (BLAST FURNACE TOP WITHOUT BELLS) ENGINEERED AND PATENTED BY PAUL WURTH SA, IS DESIGNED FOR MODERN, HIGH SPEED AND CAPACITY BLAST FURNACES WITH VERY HIGH TOP PRESSURES. THE BLAST FURNACE IN NOVOLIPETZK HAS A DAILY PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF 8200 TONS OF PIG IRON. THE FIRST SYSTEM OF THIS KIND BEGAN OPERATION IN JANUARY 1972. SINCE THEN, FIFTY-ONE HAVE BEEN SOLD, OR MANUFACTURED UNDER LICENSE, IN 18 COUNTRIES AROUND THE GLOBE, ALTHOUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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NONE YET TO THE USA. TWENTY-THREE OF THESE ARE ALREADY IN OPERATION.

3. IN 1976, LUXEMBOURG'S TOTAL TRADE WITH THE USSR WAS 763 MILLION BELGIAN FRANCS, WITH BALANCE OF TRADE OVERWHELMINGLY IN LUXEMBOURG'S FAVOR: EXPORTS - 691 MILLION VERSUS IMPORTS 72 MILLION. TRADE WITH USSR

REPRESENTS ONLY SLIGHTLY OVER 1 PERCENT OF LUXEMBOURG'S
EXPORTS AND A MINISCULE PART OF ITS IMPORTS. THIS SALE
IS SIGNIFICANT THEREFORE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GRAND
DUCHY'S TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. GINN

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